

APRIL 1965

THIS IS A
CALL TO PRAYER
FOR
THE LORD'S WORK
IN
COLOMBIA

COLOMBIAN NEWS

Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.

NUMBER FORTY-ONE



Easter-Death Defeated

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

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FIRST COLOMBIAN ORDAINED



Ordained
Minister of the Gospel

A full Cachipay church served as the memorable scene of the first ordination of a Colombian in the twenty-year history of the Colombian mission. Armando Hernandez, who was converted to Christ in the chapel of the Colegio Americano in Cachipay, became the first Colombian to meet all the requirements for the ordination to the gospel ministry. On Sunday, January 24, in his home church of Cachipay, Armando took the vows to "faithfully discharge all the privileges and obligations as a minister of Jesus Christ." During the sacred moment of the laying on of hands, his life and ministry were consecrated anew to the high calling as an ordained minister in Christ's church.

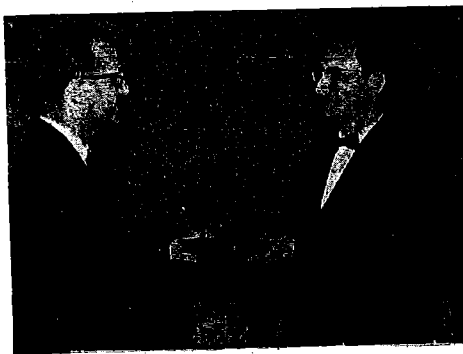
Rev. and Mrs. Hernandez return to the work of the Colombian Mennonite church with high spiritual, academic, and practical credentials. For many years following his conversion, Armando served as lay pastor and deacon of several churches. After attending a Bible institute in Bogota, Armando felt the call for more advanced preparation for the gospel ministry. In 1959, he entered the Biblical Seminary in San Jose, Costa Rica, from which he graduated with a degree in theology. It was in the seminary in Costa Rica that Armando met and married Eunice, a fine Christian from the

country of Venezuela, who was studying in the field of Christian education. Thus, Armando and Eunice begin the new work in Ibague with an excellent background of training and preparation.

Assisting in the service of ordination were Rev. Gerald Stucky, who delivered the ordination message; Rev. Glen Klaassen who gave the charge to the new pastor and his wife; and Pastors Luis Correa and Juan Garzon, who led in special prayers. Rev. Howard Habegger, pastor of the Bogota church, and Rev. Robert Lazear, Presbyterian missionary, also participated. Special music was provided by a ladies' trio from Bogota who sang "How Great Thou Art," and Marlene Habegger who sang "The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation." Delegations from the Bogota and Anolima churches witnessed the ordination with a great sense of praise and thanksgiving to God for this new hallmark in the life of the Mennonite church in Colombia.



The Charge to Stand Firm...



Preach the Word...



Serve the Lord

NEW WORK BEGINS IN IBAGUE

The Mennonite Church Convention of Colombia during its annual assembly in June of 1964 decided to begin a new church and mission work in Ibague. After much prayer and planning, the first service was held on Sunday, February 14, 1965. Eighteen were present including fourteen baptized members of various Mennonite churches in Colombia. Of those attending the first meeting, eleven are Mennonite students at the Normal School in Ibague, where the Glendon Klaassens are teaching. A house has been rented for the pastor which will also serve as a temporary church. Ibague, a city of 160,000, is the capital of the state of Tolima.



Nucleus Meets in Ibague

The pastor who has been sent by the churches to head up the new work is Rev. Armando Hernandez, recently ordained to the gospel ministry. Concerning the new work, Rev. Hernandez states, "Ibague, a rapidly growing city, offers a tremendous challenge for evangelism. We realize this is a work of God that requires the individual and combined efforts of all the believers in our churches. Our plan is to establish personal contacts proclaiming to each one the gospel of Christ. This is why we have come to Ibague. We are counting on your prayers for us and the work."

Reflections and Reactions of a Colombian Missionary

BACK TO COLOMBIA

Gerald Stucky

I don't know why so many people bypass the opportunity of going into missionary work. I suppose they have their reasons such as: "too hard to leave the good old United States," "too great a financial sacrifice," "I'm not fit for foreign service," "I can't leave my family," "I don't feel called," etc. I wonder however, if basically the reason isn't just plain ignorance.

Voluntary service workers and visitors who have come to Colombia over the last fifteen years have almost invariably had a very rich eye-opening experience. They have seen how the "other three-quarters" live--and they have been challenged. As they have assisted in the work of Christ's mission in Colombia, life has become meaningful and happy. As they traveled in this intensely beautiful country, they were enthusiastic and blessed. As they listened to a new language, they were at first humbled but then had the desire to learn the new language. As they looked into the lives of different and interesting people, they began to realize how much we all need Christ and how much Christ has to offer to us all. After only a short visit their lives became transformed, they got a new outlook on life, a new vision, a new purpose, a new desire to serve Christ.

We have just returned from our fourth furlough in nineteen years. In approximately 25,000 miles of travel one is impressed by many things. Many churches showed real and vital interest in the program of missions. There seemed to be a general uneasiness and unrest with our American prosperity, and a feeling of futility about life--the "American way." Although many seem to be aware that the world is in crisis, others are not aware of how serious the situation is abroad. Cuba took us by surprise. Many want to help, but are not sure what to do. The inspiring and unceasing efforts of our Board of Missions and especially the efforts of the Executive Secretary have pointed the way for many to serve and meet the crisis around the world. Many are beginning to make substantial investments in the lives of the Colombian people. The hope of Colombia (and of the world) is Christ and education. Investments made in lives here will pay dividends for time and eternity.

We are glad for this our twentieth year in Colombia. We have seen many little needy children grow up to become men and women. Some of them have been educated, and some have received Christ into their lives. Some are helping to make Colombia a better place to live and are making their influence felt for the kingdom of God. God's Holy Spirit is doing great things in the lives of many Colombians. Thank God for the opportunity to serve in the land of the green emerald and the orchid.

STUCKYS RETURN TO COLOMBIA

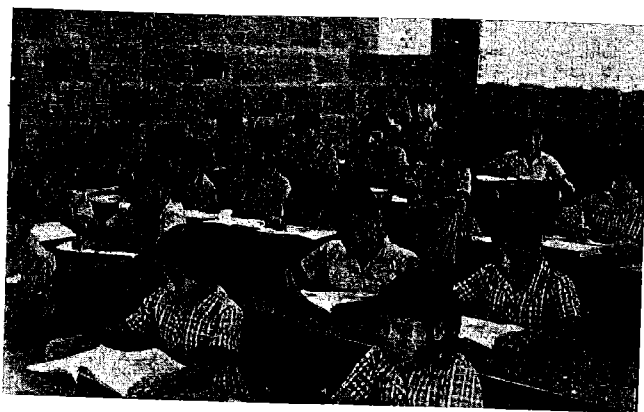


Gerald and Mary Hope

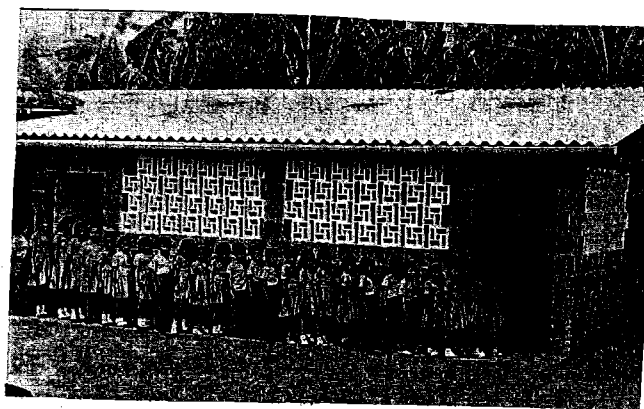
Gerald and Mary Hope Stucky returned to Colombia on January 16 by way of Mexico, following a seven-month furlough in the United States. The year 1965 represents for the Stuckys, twenty years of missionary service to the Colombia people in the area of Cachipay.

The Stuckys return as directors of the Colegio Americano where they began the Mennonite mission in Colombia. Through the past twenty years the Stuckys have brought dedicated leadership to the national churches as well as to the missionary staff.

COLEGIO MENNO USES NEW CLASSROOMS



Inside



Outside

For several years Colegio Menno in La Mesa has lacked good teaching facilities. During the early stages of Colegio Menno the same rooms were used for both worship services of the church and classrooms for the school. A few years ago a new church was erected but the school facilities remained basically the same.

Because of the enlarged student body and the growing opportunities to serve the evangelical community in La Mesa, new classrooms have been added to the old buildings which are still in use. The new building provides two good-sized classrooms and adequate bathroom facilities to serve the sixty-one children enrolled for the '65 school year. The new building created some opposition from the local priest, however, only two students left the Colegio as a result of the priest's pressure. Miss Vernelle Yoder, who is teaching and directing the school program is being assisted this year by Mrs. Matilda Moreno, a Colombian teacher.



Preparing to Teach

KLAASSENS TRAIN FUTURE TEACHERS

Glen and Reitha Klaassen have returned to the Normal School in Ibagu  to resume their teaching responsibilities. Glen in addition to a full teaching load, is also the chaplain of the student body. Reitha is teaching courses in the field of Christian education.

The Normal School provides a strong Christian orientation and environment for evangelical youth who are preparing to become teachers in Colombian schools. The Klaassens are taking an active role in helping to establish the new church work in Ibagu .

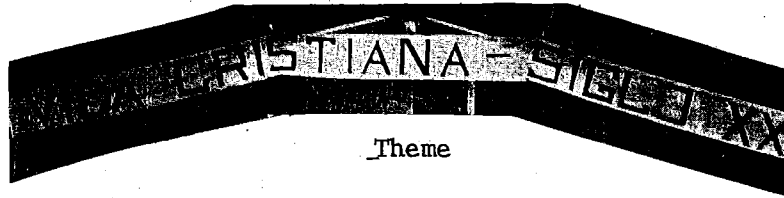
CACHIPAY PASTOR TO ATTEND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Mennonite churches of Colombia will send to the General Conference in July, Mr. Luis Correa, pastor of the church in Cachipay. Luis, who has lived most of his life in and around the Cachipay area, is thoroughly acquainted with the Mennonite mission program as well as the life of the churches. Luis not only speaks Spanish, but speaks and understands English. Therefore, Luis will be able to participate at the Conference without the use of an interpreter. At present time, Luis is completing one year of service as the pastor of the Cachipay church.



Luis Correa

RETREAT



Theme

1965

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE-TWENTIETH CENTURY



The Christian Life-Taught

One retreator said, "This was the best retreat I ever attended." Another one remarked, "This retreat really made me think about my life, my aims, and my goals." These remarks were typical of about fifty-five young people who met for five days under the banner "The Christian Life-Twentieth Century." The Christian life was lived, discussed, and sung about in the chapel, dormitories, dining hall, and even during hours of recreation and relaxation. The spirit of searching and going deeper in the Christian life was felt by retreaters and the staff. Rev. Ed Murphy, evangelist and Bible teacher, led the young people on the "how" and "why" of the Christian life.



The Christian Life-Discussed

Special attention was given to the problems evangelical young people face in Colombia today. Through lively discussions the retreaters were confronted with the challenge of being "living witnesses" to their faith in the midst of a catholic culture. Evangelical professional people spoke each day encouraging youth to live for Christ in their vocation.



The Christian Life-Sung

The retreaters enjoyed a well-rounded program which included hikes, singing, a Ping-Pong tournament, volleyball, soccer, and a climactic campfire service. During the final campfire service, many gave witness to the impact of the retreat on their personal lives. Luis Correa was the general director of the retreat. Both nationals and missionaries participated in various aspects of the retreat.



Beatriz

"The Young People's Retreat was a great help in my life. 'What is the Christian life? The question penetrated my heart. Christ gave me the answer: A life dedicated to Him! I believe with His help I will be able to follow Him."



José

"The Young People's Retreat of '65 was a great blessing to my life. Through Bible study, discussion, and messages, I understand better that the Christian Life-Twentieth Century must have Christ at the very center. With Christ at the center I can live in the present and face the future."

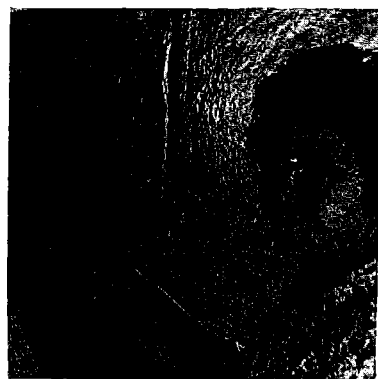
CHRISTIAN LAITY ASSIST IN MISSION PROGRAM



Sue Kingsley

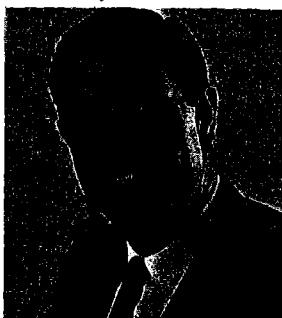


"Dutch" Stucky



Lillian Fox

The Mennonite mission of Colombia is being given a helping hand by several lay Christians, who at their own expense of time and money, have been combining a visit while assisting in the mission program. Thank you for coming.



Howard Habegger

COLOMBIAN MISSIONARY TO ADDRESS TWO CONFERENCES

Rev. Howard Habegger, missionary-pastor of the newly organized church in Bogota, leaves Colombia for a three-week speaking tour to the middle western and eastern United States. Howard will be speaking at the Central and Eastern District Conferences, to be held in Carlock, Ill., April 22-25; and Lansdale, Penna., April 29 to May 2. Following the two district conferences, he will also visit and speak in several conference churches. The speaking tour will cover four states and eight churches.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mrs. Russel Weiss, formerly Huldah Myers, missionary to Colombia, is now married and living in Milford Square, Penna. She attends the West Swamp Mennonite Church.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

Praise Him for Rev. and Mrs. Hernandez, our new national couple in Ibagu. Pray for more national and missionary workers for Colombia.

Please send change of address promptly to the Board of Missions, General Conference Mennonite Church, Box 647, Newton, Kansas 67114

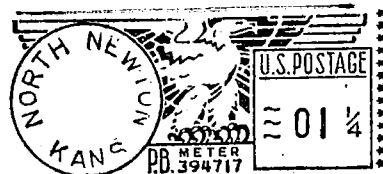
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